



Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Annika Strandhäll to visit New York for high-level political forum on the 2030 Agenda

Published 09 July 2019

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development begins today. Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll will head the Swedish delegation and be at the HLPF in New York on 15–19 July, when the ministerial meeting takes place.

“Sweden is at the forefront globally in many respects, not least on gender equality and climate action, but much remains to be done. We can and will take the lead in the transformation towards sustainable societies,” says Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll.

The HLPF is a global platform for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. This year’s theme is ‘Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’.

This year, the goals to be reviewed in depth are: inclusive and equitable quality education for all (Goal 4), sustainable economic growth and decent work (Goal 8), reduced inequality (Goal 10), action to combat climate change (Goal 13), and peaceful and inclusive societies (Goal 16).

In addition to delivering Sweden’s national address at the HLPF, Annika Strandhäll will take part in several side events and hold bilateral talks with other ministers and UN representatives.

Ms Strandhäll will be available for media interviews during the HLPF. For

more information and interview requests, please contact Ms Strandhäll's Press Secretary, Hanna Alexandersson.



Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sweden and Japan sign social security agreement

Published 11 April 2019 Updated 11 April 2019

Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll and Japan's Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki today signed a social security agreement between the two countries. The agreement coordinates the Swedish and Japanese public old-age, survivors' and disability pensions systems.

“The world is getting smaller, and labour market mobility is increasing year on year. Japan is one of our largest trade partners outside the EU, and around 3 000 Swedes work in Japan. This agreement not only increases security for the individual, it is also beneficial for businesses in both countries,” says Ms Strandhäll.

Last year, Japan and Sweden celebrated 150 years of diplomatic relations. During the Swedish State Visit to Tokyo in April 2018, which involved the King and Queen and Swedish government representatives, the two countries agreed to sign a social insurance agreement following several years of negotiations. The agreement aims to ensure that individuals do not lose social security rights that they have accrued – particularly pension rights – when they move between the countries, and that businesses do not have to pay double social security contributions.

The agreement will make it easier for Swedes working in Japan to receive Japanese pension payments in the future if they return to Sweden. It will also enable businesses to post workers to the other country for up to five years. For the duration of the posting, the worker, as well as their accompanying family members, will continue to be covered by their home country's legislation on the benefits in question.

Next, the countries' parliaments will need to approve the agreement before it can enter into force.

Japan is the world's third largest economy, and Sweden's second-largest export market in Asia. Around 1 500 Swedish businesses currently trade with Japan, and 160 Swedish companies are established in the Japanese market. A free trade agreement between the EU and Japan came into force in February 2019, giving Swedish businesses better access to the Japanese market and its 127 million consumers. The social insurance agreement will help increase security for workers and their family members moving between Sweden and Japan, and also make it easier for Swedish companies to do business with Japan.

Sweden has previously concluded social security agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Cap Verde, Chile, India, Israel, Morocco, the Philippines, Serbia, South Korea, Turkey and the United States. The social security systems within the EU are also coordinated.



Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Social protection following Brexit

Published 25 February 2019

The Government wishes to mitigate the consequences for Swedish citizens in the United Kingdom in the event that the country leaves the EU without reaching any agreement whatsoever on how this withdrawal is to take place. Among other things, the government bill submitted to the Riksdag proposes that, in the event of a hard Brexit, it should still be possible to pay Swedish social security benefits to individuals in the United Kingdom over a transitional period. It is also proposed that it should still be possible to receive compensation for healthcare expenses over the same period.

– The EU was created to secure peace, freedom, democracy and the freedom of movement. People who have moved between Sweden and the United Kingdom must also be able to feel secure in times of uncertainty. The Government has therefore submitted a legislative proposal to the Riksdag to create security for people during this adjustment, says Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll.

The bill proposes that, over a transitional period, individuals can continue to receive Swedish social security benefits, with the exception of unemployment benefit, paid to them in the United Kingdom in the same way as at present. The proposal also means that individuals will be able to receive compensation for healthcare costs in certain cases. The provisions for the payment of benefits and compensation for healthcare costs will cease to apply at the end of 2019.

– We want to see an orderly British withdrawal from the EU – everybody would benefit from this. But the date for the withdrawal is coming ever

closer and there is still no agreement. This makes it important that we also prepare for a hard Brexit so that nobody gets into difficulties, says Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

It is also proposed that provisions be introduced to protect, in the future, the right to aggregate periods of acquired insurance and the right to equate benefits and so on for people working or residing in the UK during the period in which the country was a member of the EU. This may become relevant for future claims of social security benefits, such as pensions.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 29 March 2019.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

Here are the contact details for the ministers' press secretaries.

Prime Minister's Office

Press secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Ingela Nilsson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 551 41 16

Jonatan Holst

Mobile telephone: +46 72 227 85 35

Press Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren

Dan Lundqvist Dahlin

Mobile telephone: +46 72 553 66 29

Ministry of Employment

Press Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson

Natalie Sial

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

Press Secretary to Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen

Martin Kling

Mobile telephone: +46 70 539 57 29

Ministry of Finance

Press Secretary to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson

Gösta Brunnander

Mobile telephone: +46 72 544 28 66

Press Secretary to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund

Hanna Hessling

Mobile telephone: +46 72 557 38 01

Press Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi

Matilda Malmqvist Glas

Mobile telephone: +46 70 367 03 64

Ministry of Defence

Press Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist

Maja Zachrisson

Mobile telephone: +46 70 219 81 64

Ministry of Infrastructure

Press Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Karin Röding Boman

Mobile telephone: +46 76 116 65 62

Press Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital

Development Anders Ygeman

Fredrik Persson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 454 55 09

Ministry of Justice

Press Secretary to Minister for Justice Morgan Johansson

Sofie Rudh

Mobile telephone: +46 72 545 74 21

Press Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael
Damberg

Miriam Abu Eid

Mobile telephone: +46 72 216 95 65

Ministry of Culture

Press Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with
responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind

Anna Söderström

Mobile telephone: +46 72 532 17 13

Ministry of the Environment

Press secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate,
and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin

Jakob Lundgren

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 08 92

Kristoffer Talltorp

Mobile telephone: +46 72 542 80 32

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Press Secretary to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation
Ibrahim Baylan

Sami Mashial

Mobile telephone: +46 76 144 17 03

Press Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson

Maria Soläng

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 19 47

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs
Lena Hallengren

Jens Petersen

Mobile telephone: +46 70 293 69 35

Press Secretary to Minister for Social Security Annika
Strandhäll

Victor Harju

Mobile telephone: +46 72 504 36 70

Ministry of Education and Research

Press secretaries to Minister for Education Anna Ekström

Natalie Sial

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

Tora Heckscher

Mobile telephone: +46 72 233 84 39

Press Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and
Research Matilda Ernkrans

Daniel Ferreira

Mobile telephone: +46 76 135 56 92

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström

Isabel Lundin

Mobile telephone: +46 76 296 46 38

Press Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson

Hanna Hessling

Mobile telephone: +46 72 55 738 07

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde

Joanna Abrahamsson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 543 84 89



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Eight Swedish cabinet ministers to the Social Summit in Gothenburg

Published 15 November 2017

The Prime Minister, together with the EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has invited to a social summit focusing on the promotion of Fair Jobs and growth, in Gothenburg on Friday 17 November. Heads of State and heads of Governments together with other EU-member ministers will be in place.

Apart from the Prime minister the Swedish Government participates are:

- **Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson**
- **Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll**
- **Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin**
- **Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde**
- **Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg**
- **Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér**
- **Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training Anna Ekström**

All government ministers will be available for media during the summit, contact respective press secretaries. In addition to the Swedish government, representatives from the EU Commission and EU countries, more than 30 different organizations and actors will attend the Summit on Fair Conditions and Growth in Göteborg, November 17, 2017.

The summit will bring together EU leaders, the social partners and other key stakeholders to discuss how to promote fair jobs and growth.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Swedish Government strongly criticizes the Commission's EMA assessment in a letter today

Published 13 October 2017

The Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll and the Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde criticize the assessment in a letter today to the Commission with clarifying comments on the Swedish bid. The ministers conclude that this has not been a serious part of the process.

– We strongly disagree to the non-objective criteria within the EMA-bid process. This process has to have one objective and nothing else; patient safety for more than 500 million people living in the EU. That has to be the standards for the EU assessment and the vote of the member states and nothing else, says minister Strandhäll.

In short, the technical assessment states that the Swedish bid "does not meet EMA requirements", but Sweden more than meets all the specified criteria.

The bid states that Sweden offers the EMA a choice of secure premises in Stockholm, giving the EMA the opportunity to influence the design of the building such that it suits the requirements and needs of the Agency and that detailed plans for the whole relocation process will be drawn up in close cooperation with the EMA.

– This is the first common decision for EU 27 after the British referendum on the exit from the EU. It is therefore important that both the process and decisions are fair and objective, says Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and

Trade.

It is the Swedish Government's sincere hope and expectation that the Commission will continue to work for a transparent process based on objective criteria, and to this end acknowledge the correct and verifiable facts provided in the Swedish bid.

Facts:

On 30 September, the Commission published its assessment, including a technical assessment performed by the agency itself, of the bids submitted for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The Commission's general assessment summary of Sweden's bid is correct; however, the technical assessment conducted by the EMA omits and misinterprets some of the information Sweden have provided.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Exporting Swedish Care and Health

Published 12 October 2017

The Swedish government wants to increase exports of health and medical care, social services, pharmaceuticals, biomedicine and medical technology. These areas are already an important component of Swedish exports, but their share can be increased. Swedish social services and health and medical care produce world-class medical results. To make use of the available opportunities and potential, a new, active working group will be established under the Team Sweden concept, called 'Team Sweden Care and Health'.

"The social services, health and medical care sectors are already an important part of Swedish exports, but we see greater potential in our welfare sector. We know that Swedish welfare and welfare technologies are in the forefront and that's a message we want to spread to the world," says Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll.

Team Sweden Care and Health will create better opportunities to increase Swedish exports and investment opportunities in the health and medical care sector. Representatives of the business sector, academia, government agencies and other ministries were invited to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to begin dialogue and collaboration, and to bring promotion efforts and the work each party does together.

Team Sweden Care and Health is a high-level group that will meet regularly under the leadership of the Health and Social Affairs Ministry's state secretaries.

An important part of its work will be to package health and medical care solutions. There is often international need for expertise on entire systems, such as 'a hospital', 'a health centre' or 'a home for the elderly'.

"Through Team Sweden Care and Health, the Government are in the firm belief that we will strengthen the Swedish capacity to deliver package solutions on health and medical care", says Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll.



Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sweden ready to host the EMA

Published 01 August 2017 Updated 01 August 2017

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is currently looking for a new location in connection with the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Sweden has now submitted its official offer to host the EMA.

The offer guarantees the smooth relocation of the EMA and its staff to Stockholm, which provides a unique and world-leading life sciences environment and successful cooperation between health care, academia and industry.

"The EMA is strategically important for the EU's global competitiveness. We are convinced that Sweden's offer is best able to benefit the EMA and the EU as a whole," says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

"The EMA is an extremely important agency for health and medical care and patient safety in the European Union. Sweden and Stockholm can provide the seamless transition required," says Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll.

Strandhäll argues that Sweden more than meets the criteria established by the European Commission and, in addition, has several unique advantages:

- The Swedish Medical Products Agency is already one of the EMA's most active partners and thereby a valuable asset. The Agency will also increase its staffing to assist the EMA in the event of a move.
- Karolinska Institutet – the EMA is offered a research environment that includes one of the world's foremost medical universities and the Nobel Assembly as its closest neighbours.
- Synergy effects with the ECDC – Sweden already hosts the European

Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). This will help strengthen public health protection while improving EU resource efficiency.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Government reshuffle, 27 July 2017

Published 27 July 2017

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven today announced a government reshuffle. Three ministers have chosen to leave their posts, two new ministers have been appointed, and two ministers have been entrusted with revised areas of responsibility.

Ministers Anna Johansson, Anders Ygeman and Gabriel Wikström are leaving their posts.

Newly appointed ministers

Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Migration, and Deputy Minister for Justice: Heléne Fritzon

Changes by ministry

Ministry of Justice Minister for Justice and Home Affairs: Morgan Johansson

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Minister for Health and Social Affairs: Annika Strandhäll



Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sweden is ready to host the EMA

Published 15 June 2017

Sweden is determined to host the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in Stockholm and is ready for seamless relocation. The Swedish Prime Minister has written to the President of the European Council, Mr Tusk, expressing Sweden's wholehearted ambition to host the EMA.

"We are certain that we are the best country to host the EMA. I am sure that we can convince the other European governments of this," says Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll.

"We can provide a seamless transition for the EMA and its staff to a world-class scientific environment with life sciences collaborations between the health care sector, academia and industry."

Ms Strandhäll will focus on this issue when she meets European colleagues in Luxemburg on 15–16 June and at other European bilateral meetings. Since December 2016, the Swedish Government, together with regional stakeholders, has been working intensively to set up an extraordinary package for the European Medicines Agency. Ministers across government have put the EMA issue on the agenda of meetings with European colleagues.

The Swedish Government believes that Sweden is best suited to host the EMA for the reasons outlined below.

1. Identified location in Stockholm

Sweden has options for EMA headquarters in Hagastaden, Stockholm; these are well embedded in the life sciences centre near Karolinska Institutet, one

of the most renowned medical universities in the world, and the Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab), an elite research centre for molecular biosciences.

2. Leading research environment

Some of Europe's best researchers call Stockholm-Uppsala home and the region's five universities their second address. These bright talents conduct research in biomedicine, pharmacology, human health sciences and regulatory science. This cluster also includes three university hospitals, providing high-quality healthcare and research.

3. Smooth transition for the staff and their families

- A housing provision service: construction of new housing in Stockholm-Uppsala is growing rapidly.
- A one-stop shop, including a specially developed mobile phone application, will be available to guide EMA employees and their families through the steps to take as they settle into life in Sweden.

4. The Swedish Medical Products Agency: an asset for EU27

Since its start in 1995, the Swedish Medical Products Agency (MPA) has been one of the EMA's most active partners, with broad in-house expertise in all therapeutic areas. It is a valuable asset that will allow for the continuity of the EMA's work.

5. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is already well established in Stockholm. Close geographical proximity of the ECDC and the EMA would contribute to synergy effects and facilitate the agencies' collaboration, for example in vaccines and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Relocating EMA to Sweden may therefore help strengthen Europe's defences against international health threats. In Sweden, there is substantial experience of work to tackle AMR, which stems from active and successful efforts over several decades to combat antibiotic resistance.

6. Stockholm is easy to access

The location proposed as the new EMA headquarters is within easy reach of two international airports. Arlanda Airport and Bromma Airport can both be reached from Hagastaden in less than 30 minutes.

For more information: www.ematosweden.eu



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Employment,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and President Jean-Claude Juncker to host Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth

Published 23 January 2017 Updated 23 January 2017

Together with President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will host a Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, focusing on promoting fair jobs and growth.

The Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth will gather heads of state and government, the social partners and other key players to work together to promote fair jobs and growth. Well-functioning and fair European labour markets, effective and sustainable social protection systems and the promotion of social dialogue at all levels will be at the heart of these discussions.

In spite of recent improvements in economic conditions, the legacy of the worst economic and social crisis in recent times has been far-reaching. The world of work and our societies are changing fast, with new opportunities and new challenges arising from globalisation, the digital revolution, changing work patterns and demographic developments. We share a responsibility and an interest in working for a more prosperous and 'future-proof' Europe, where economic and social developments go hand-in-hand.

The Summit will be an opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss the policy priorities and initiatives set at European level and to see how the European

Union, the Member States and social partners at all levels can deliver on their shared economic and social priorities.

President Jean-Claude Juncker said: “Since the start of my mandate, I have made clear that I wanted a more social Europe. We have taken important first steps to achieve that. This year will be crucial. Following the broad public consultation, it is time to establish the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Social Summit in Sweden will help us to deliver the momentum and put social priorities where they belong: at the top of Europe's agenda.”

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven said: “In these challenging times, we need to show that we can deliver results in peoples’ everyday lives. A more social Europe, with fair working conditions, effective labour markets and a strong social dialogue, should be a priority for all of us. I trust we can take important steps towards this goal at the Social Summit in November.”



Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Budget reforms for increased welfare and security

Published 26 September 2016 Updated 26 September 2016

The Budget Bill for 2017 was presented on the 20th of September. Improvements in sickness and activity compensation, the establishment of a gender equality agency and better dental health for older people are some of the reforms in the areas for which the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is responsible. The Budget Bill for 2017 is based on an agreement between the government parties and the Left Party.

Sweden must have quality welfare services we can rely on. This is why the Government has made major investments in health, education and social services. As Sweden's population grows, strengthening welfare becomes particularly important. The Government continues to prioritise welfare services in this budget and proposes that SEK 10 billion a year be made available to municipalities and county councils in general government grants.

"We are continuing the important work to close the health gaps and develop the Swedish model. This is being achieved not least through the welfare billions, investments in better dental health for older people and additional resources to the Health and Social Care Inspectorate for supervisory activities. We are also increasing access to care for traumatised asylum seekers and new arrivals," says Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport Gabriel Wikström.

Several of these budget investments also affect the more vulnerable groups in society and target in particular single women, families with children on low incomes and people receiving sickness and activity compensation.

"People feeling safe is an important part of building our society. Our common insurance schemes were very badly looked after during eight years of a government led by the Moderate Party. This is why I am very pleased to support investments that strengthen the Swedish model and build up our social insurance system again," says Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll.

The Government also intends to establish a gender equality agency that will become active at the beginning of 2018 to ensure that political priorities gain traction in government agencies and activities.

"Our feminist policy must have a clear impact and make a difference to people's lives. To ensure the effective implementation of gender equality policy, a special gender equality agency is needed. The Government will also prioritise preventive action to combat men's violence against women in a new national strategy with an action plan for the period 2017–2020," says Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér.

Below is some brief information about all reforms at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs under each Minister's areas:

Reforms in Gabriel Wikström's areas

Doubling of the general dental care subsidy for people aged 65–74

The general dental care subsidy will be raised for people aged 65–74 from currently SEK 150 to SEK 300 per year. The increase will take effect on 1 July 2017.

Additional funding to the National Board of Health and Welfare for validation

The National Board of Health and Welfare will be allocated additional funding amounting to SEK 5 million for 2017. This is in addition to an earlier investment of SEK 42 million per year for validation of foreign health and medical care training.

Reinforcing the Health and Social Care Inspectorate

The Health and Social Care Inspectorate will be allocated temporary additional resources for the processing and supervision of homes for care or residence due to the large number of unaccompanied refugee children. The

Health and Social Care Inspectorate will receive SEK 40 million in 2017 for this initiative. The Inspectorate will also receive permanent additional resources of SEK 70 million per year for staffing costs and to strengthen its supervision and licensing for personal assistance providers.

Investment to combat mental ill health among traumatised asylum seekers and new arrivals

SEK 40 million per year will be allocated to the care and treatment of asylum seekers and new arrivals who have had traumatic experiences, such as war, famine and torture, so as to combat mental ill health among this group.

Teams for long-term unemployed people to strengthen sports, outdoor activities and public health

The Swedish Sports Confederation will receive funds to create work teams of long-term unemployed people in five district sports associations. These work teams are to strengthen sports, outdoor activities and public health by organising activities, preparing walks, renovating facilities, etc.

Sports associations to receive stimulation for sports and youth leaders in socially vulnerable areas

SEK 14 million per year will be provided up to 2019 to enable more sports activities, leadership development, etc. in socially vulnerable areas. SEK 18 million per year will be provided during the period 2020–2025. These investments are expected to contribute to democratic values and physical activity.

Additional resources for sports activities for asylum seekers and new arrivals

The autumn amending budget contains an additional SEK 20 million for 2016 for asylum seekers' sports activities.

Reforms in Annika Strandhäll's areas:

Increased appropriation to Försäkringskassan

The appropriation to Försäkringskassan (the Swedish social insurance agency) will increase by SEK 130 million in 2017. These resources are to be used for the increased volumes in several social insurance benefits resulting

from the increased number of new arrivals. Moreover, the resources are to be used for reforms to sickness and activity compensation and financial support to families. The resources are also for improving the quality of investigations and strengthening efforts to combat benefit fraud in the area of assistance allowance.

A trial period for studies while maintaining activity compensation

The Government proposes that a person who has received activity compensation due to reduced working capacity for at least twelve months should be able to try studying while still receiving activity compensation payments for a period of at most six months. It is proposed that this amendment enter into force on 1 February 2017.

Greater security to people entitled to hold sickness compensation dormant while working

A monthly amount equivalent to 25 per cent of the sickness compensation that has been declared dormant can be paid each month for a period of 24 months when sickness compensation is held dormant while a person is in gainful employment. It is proposed that this amendment enter into force on 1 February 2017.

Full sickness compensation from 19 years

The age limit for when full sickness compensation can be granted will be brought down to 19. This only applies to full compensation and to people who will probably never be able to work at all. People with serious disabilities will receive secure compensation whereas young people receiving activity compensation can expect measures to help them develop their work capacity. It is proposed that this amendment enter into force on 1 February 2017.

Increased guarantee compensation in sickness and activity compensation

The guarantee level for full sickness compensation and activity compensation will be raised by 0.05 price base amounts, which for people receiving full guarantee compensation means an increase of SEK 187 per month before tax per year, using the 2017 price base amount. It is proposed that this amendment enter into force on 1 July 2017.

Increased housing supplement for people receiving sickness and activity

compensation

The compensation rate in the housing supplement will be increased from 93 to 95 per cent. This increase will provide at most an additional SEK 100 in housing supplement per month.

In total, the increase in guarantee compensation and the increase in the housing supplement mean that approximately 200 000 people will receive on average just over SEK 2 000 per year from 2018.

It is proposed that this amendment enter into force on 1 January 2017.

Raised income thresholds in housing allowance

It is proposed that the income thresholds in housing allowance provided to families with children be raised from SEK 117 000 to SEK 127 000 for single people and from SEK 58 500 to SEK 63 500 for couples. It is proposed that this increase enter into force on 1 January 2017.

Increased maintenance support for older children

The Government intends to submit legislative proposals for differentiation in the amount of maintenance support received by increasing it for children who are 15 and older.

Combined with the increase in maintenance support for older children, the Government will also look into increasing the basic income tax allowance for parents required to pay maintenance.

These increases are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2018.

Increased large-family supplement

The Government proposes an increase in the large-family supplement for the third child of SEK 126 per month. It is proposed that this increase enter into force on 1 January 2017.

Increased level for adoption allowance

The Government intends to raise the adoption allowance to SEK 75 000. This will mean that the allowance will cover 33 per cent of parents' average costs. It is proposed that the amendment enter into force on 1 January 2017.

Modernised support for parents living apart

The Government intends to introduce a new special allowance in the housing allowance for children who live alternately with both parents. This means that a certain form of housing is not favoured and that the child's registered residence does not determine his or her right to support.

Reforms in Åsa Regnér's areas

Plans to establish a gender equality agency in 2018

The Government intends to establish a gender equality agency, to be operational from the beginning of 2018. For the Government to ensure that gender equality policy priorities are reflected in the management of government agencies and activities, a permanent structure at national level is needed.

National strategy to combat men's violence against women

Before the end of the year, the Government will present a new national strategy to combat men's violence against women in the Government Communication on gender equality policy. The range of measures to prevent and combat men's violence against women comprise over SEK 900 million for the period 2017–2020.

Reinforced appropriation to the National Board of Institutional Care

The National Board of Institutional Care needs to expand the number of places available in its activities due to increased demand. The Government proposes increasing the appropriation by SEK 40 million in 2017 and estimates that the appropriation should increase by an additional SEK 10 million from 2018, which means a total of SEK 50 million per year.

National knowledge centre for unaccompanied minors

The Government intends to set up a national knowledge centre at the National Board of Health and Welfare for issues concerning unaccompanied minors. The aim is to disseminate knowledge, successful methods and effective processes to the municipalities, county councils and responsible agencies that implement measures for unaccompanied minors. The National Board of Health and Welfare will receive SEK 10 million per year in 2017 and 2018 for this initiative. It will then receive SEK 5 million per year in

2019 and 2020.



Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Social security agreement signed between Sweden and the Philippines

Published 20 October 2015 Updated 20 October 2015

Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll and Philippine representative Emilio S. de Quiros signed a social security agreement between the two countries on Thursday 15 October. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs plans to present a bill on approval of the agreement to the Riksdag in early 2016.

The agreement coordinates the general Swedish and Philippine systems for old-age, survivors' and disability pensions (for Sweden, sickness and activity compensation), and work injury compensation.

It determines whether a person is to be insured for pension and work injury benefits in Sweden or the Philippines, thus protecting people from losing their pension entitlement or work injury compensation, and avoiding social security contributions being paid in both countries.

The rules on export of benefits and totalisation of creditable periods are particularly important to Sweden. Without these rules, Philippine pensions will not be paid out to individuals living in Sweden. In other words, the agreement makes it possible for individuals covered by the Philippine pension system to have their pension paid out in Sweden.

“It is important to coordinate social insurance benefits for people moving to and working in different countries, and also to ensure the security of the labour force from countries outside the EU. This agreement will benefit both individuals and companies”, says minister of social security, Annika

Strandhäll.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to receive President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil in Stockholm

Published 16 October 2015 Updated 16 October 2015

On Monday 19 October, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will receive the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, in Stockholm. They are meeting to discuss economic exchanges between Sweden and Brazil, climate and sustainability, and defence.

During her visit to Sweden, President Rousseff will also participate with Mr Löfven in a business forum and a meeting with representatives of the City of Stockholm. She will also go to see Norra Djurgårdsstaden and visit companies in Kista and Linköping.

Programme points, 19 October

09.30 Business Forum

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff address a business forum at Grand Hôtel.

10.00 Reception by the Prime Minister at Rosenbad

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff arrive at Rosenbad.

Photo opportunity at the entrance.

Discussions.

Photo pool – meeting room.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll and Minister for Housing, Urban Development

and Information Technology Mehmet Kaplan will also take part in the discussions.

11.15 Press conference at Rosenbad

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff hold a joint press conference in Bella Venezia.

The press conference will be webcast live on www.regeringen.se.

Lunch at City Hall

The City of Stockholm hosts a lunch for Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff at City Hall.

Photo pool.

15.50 Visit to Saab in Linköping

Ms Rousseff and Mr Löfven visit Saab in Linköping.

Advance registration

Advance registration and/or application for a place in the photo pool is required. Please register/apply via the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 16.00 on 16 October. More detailed information about times and venues of meetings will be sent to media representatives concerned.

Advance registration/application for place in photo pool



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Press briefing with the Romanian Minister of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly

Published 22 January 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

A meeting will take place on Friday between the Swedish minister for Social Security, Ms. Annika Strandhäll, minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Ms. Åsa Regnér and the Romanian Minister of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, Ms. Rovana Plumb. Thereafter a press conference will be held.

Friday 23 January 11:30 am
Rosenbad 4

The press conference will be held in English.